

THE ALMA RECORD

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF ALMA, MICHIGAN

THE WASTE OF WAR

War under any circumstances entails a great waste of both men and money. The world war has been a notable example of this because it was conducted upon so great a scale and so many inexperienced people were handling affairs in all departments.

There has been so much criticism of the conduct of the war, undoubtedly some of it just and some of it unjust, that we have wondered what the facts really were and hoped for some concrete report from which we might draw our conclusions and feel that they were well grounded and dependable.

For some time previous to the close of the war we were spending the stupendous sum of fifty million dollars per day.

The investigating committee appointed to look into the charges of mismanagement, made an elaborate report and we are glad to be able to give Record readers a summary of that report, that they may read the facts and draw their own conclusions.

The statements made in this article are based upon data furnished by agencies of the Federal Government and upon the sworn testimony of competent witnesses who appeared at the hearings before the Select Committee on War Expenditures of the House of Representatives. This article will deal with aircraft and ordnance and a subsequent article will deal with other features of the report.

We expended \$1,051,511,988 for aviation and airplanes. This was the result:

(a) Up to the time of the signing of the Armistice not a single fighting plane manufactured in the United States had been in action on the American front.

(b) We obtained for use at the front 213 De Havilland 4 observation planes, all of which were ill designed and constructed and extremely dangerous, and 527 second-hand foreign planes, which we either bought or borrowed from the Allies.

(c) We expended \$50,000,000 on a spruce-production program, building elaborate railroads, camps and facilities, and then were forced to buy 92.6 per cent of our spruce lumber from private independent spruce lumbermen.

(d) We spent approximately \$10,000,000 on spruce railroads that never hauled a log of lumber.

(e) We spent \$20,000,000 for 4,608 Curtiss motors, 1,616 Curtiss-type aeroplanes, and 1,100 Standard JN-1 aeroplanes, which we purchased from the Curtiss Aeroplane & Motor Corporation, then sold them back to this company for \$2,720,000. The War Department refused to sell these machines to aviators for less than \$3,500 each, and provided in the contract by which they were sold to the Curtiss Company that the Curtiss Company should have the first opportunity to buy any other aeroplanes which the War Department might thereafter declare surplus.

(f) We spent \$6,000,000 on Bristol planes and \$17,500,000 on Standard-J planes, and got not a single machine that could be used for any purpose.

The Ordnance Department spent \$3,991,489,570.48 from the beginning of the war until June 1, 1919, more than it cost to finance the Civil War. A large part of this fund was spent in a program of manufacturing artillery and ammunition. Our result was in most directions negligible. The following summarizes it:

(a) We had 53 contracts for 37 m/m shells, on which we expended \$9,134,582. Not one of these shells ever reached our firing line.

(b) We had 689 contracts for 75 m/m shells, on which we expended \$301,941,459. Of these shells we fired 6,000.

(c) We had 142 contracts for 3-inch shells on which we expended \$44,841,844. None of these shells reached the firing line.

(d) We had 439 contracts for 4.7 shells, on which we expended \$41,716,051. Of these shells 14,000 were fired by our forces.

(e) We had 305 contracts for 6-inch shells, on which we expended \$24,189,075. None of these ever reached the firing line.

(f) We had 617 contracts for 155 m/m shells, on which we expended \$264,955,387. None of these ever reached the firing line.

(g) We had 301 contracts for 8-inch shells, on which we expended \$51,371,207. None of these ever reached the firing line.

(h) We had 152 contracts for 240 m/m shells, on which we expended \$24,136,867. None of these ever reached the firing line.

(i) We had 239 contracts for 9.2 shells, on which we expended \$54,389,377. None of these ever reached the firing line.

(j) We had 71 contracts for 12-inch shells, on which we expended \$9,507,878. None of these ever reached the firing line.

(k) We had 6 contracts for 14-inch shells, on which we spent \$1,266,477. None of these ever reached the firing line.

(l) We let 111 contracts to the amount of \$478,828,345, for the construction of artillery of all calibers, guns, howitzers, gun carriages, limbers, and recuperators. Of this immense program of expenditures there reached our troops and were actually used in combat thirty-nine 75 m/m anti-aircraft mount trucks, forty-eight 4.7-inch guns of the 1906 model, forty-eight 4.7-inch gun carriages of the same model, twenty-four 8-inch howitzers, and twenty-four 8-inch gun carriages. The details are shown in a table furnished by the War Department.

To sum up, we furnished our troops for use six thousand 75 m/m shells, fourteen thousand 4.7 shells, forty-eight 4.7 guns and twenty-four 8-inch howitzers.

Every man owes it to this country to give his children the best possible chance to be educated in the best things in American citizenship. The existence of our government depends upon the ideals we give our boys and girls who are the men and women of tomorrow.

The number of crimes committed by the youth of the land is simply appalling. Every daily newspaper is filled with growing accounts of crime. This should awaken us to the fact that we must be more careful in furnishing ideals for the boys and girls.

Did you ever try the experiment of looking for something humorous in every hard experience. That element is usually there somewhere and if you can only see it and have a good laugh over it, your mental skies will usually clear up much faster.

Dead fish float down the stream entirely oblivious to the process of decay that is going on, but live ones are always exerting their energy to go up stream. Don't be a dead one.

Every good action helps one to be a stronger, more worthy man, and every wrong act, makes it easier to do wrong and slide into the channel of careless unworthy living.

The man who does his best every day need have no fear that someone else will get his place. Honest effort intelligently directed always gets its reward.

Gov. Cox has talked about slush so much that apparently he thinks he is running a mud pie counter.

GOOD WATER IS COMMUNITY NEED

(Continued from page one)
 appreciated as a whole for this reason.

A large percentage of the cost of the system is hidden in the ground in wells and in the streets in street mains, hydrant connections, valves, service connections, etc., and although almost entirely hidden, it is a most vital part of the system.

It must afford, first of all suitable carrying capacity for all water that may be required at any point, not only for domestic use but also for fire protection.

It must also be strong enough to take care of unusual pressures in case of fire and that due to the unusual loads that come from streets settling or other unexpected conditions.

The extent of the distributing system even in a small city is rarely appreciated as it runs up into a large number of miles and represents a large expenditure of money.

One of the important functions of a water works is fire protection and the whole city derives this benefit and should pay for it. Were it not for this use the system could be much smaller in many parts and would cost but about one-half as much, but it is better to pay a small amount into the city for this protection than to pay several times the amount to some outside insurance company.

Fire service is not based upon the amount of water used for fires, but the ability and capacity of the system to furnish at any time and any point large volumes of water when necessary.

It is an old and obsolete idea that the water supply is only for putting out fires, flushing streets and sewers and such things and that for other purposes you should put down a well. You should require and demand that the water that goes through the city mains shall be the best and cheapest water obtainable and the most satisfactory for all purposes for which water is needed.

The ease with which a supply can be secured here gets the people to think it is not worth anything nor worth while to do anything. Were it necessary to go ten or twenty miles for the water supply and then to build large reservoirs at much expense and then perhaps filter and treat the water to make it satisfactory to use, they would be willing to do it at any cost, but because it is so easy to secure good water here it seems against the acceptance of the idea that it should be improved.

The city of Saginaw only recently voted to bond for about four million dollars to get a satisfactory water supply.

One of the first inducements held out toward getting a new factory interested in a city is that it has a good water and sewer system. This is one of the first requirements, as no one cares to move to a community where it is necessary to carry water a whole block or more and perhaps have the wife or children go out into the cold winter winds and snow to get this, when it should be possible to draw it from the tap.

The thirsty transient who comes to Alma expects to be able, as in other cities, to go to one of the several drinking fountains along the street and get a good cold drink of water. What about the farmer who brings his family, on a hot dusty day, to Alma to get his week's provisions and expects to be able to get the dust washed from throats when they get here. Water alone will quench thirst. Where are they to go? Why is it that a city of 8,000 people cannot afford to spend less than a dollar apiece a year to provide a suitable supply of good water.

PLENTY OF WORK FOR ALMA VOTERS
 (Continued from page one)
 during sessions of the legislature.

The proposed amendment to Sec. 29, of Article V of the Constitution is as follows:

"Section 29. The legislature shall have power to enact laws relative to the hours and conditions under which men, women and children may be employed."

This proposed amendment, if adopted, will empower the legislature to enact laws relative to the hours and conditions under which men may be employed.

The proposed amendment to Article XIII of the Constitution is as follows:

"Section 5. Subject to this Constitution the Legislature may authorize municipalities, subject to reasonable limitations, to condemn and to take the fee to more land and property than is needed in the acquiring, opening and widening of parks, boulevards, public places, streets, alleys, or for any public use, and after so much of the land and property has been appropriated for any such needed public purpose, the remainder may be sold or leased with or without such restrictions as may be appropriate to the improvement made.

Bonds may be issued to supply the funds to pay in whole or in part for the excess property so appropriated, but such bonds shall be a lien only on the property so acquired and they shall not be included in any limitation of the bonded indebtedness of such municipality."

This proposed amendment, if adopted, will empower the legislature to authorize municipalities to condemn more land than is necessary for parks, boulevards, etc., and to issue bonds therefor.

The proposed amendment to Article XI of the Constitution to be submitted to the electors of the election held on Tuesday, November 2, 1920, is as follows:

"Section 16. All residents of the State of Michigan, between the ages of five years and sixteen years, shall attend the public school in their respective districts until they have graduated from the eighth grade; provided, that in district where the grades do not reach the eighth, then all persons herein described in such district shall complete the course taught therein."

"Section 17. The legislature shall enact all necessary legislation to

MICKIE SAYS

"TH' BOSS SAYS IF HE WUZ 'T QUIT NEWSPAPERIN' 'N GO INTO BUSINESS, TH' FIRST THING HE WOULD DO 'D BE 'T MAKE HIMSELF SOLID WITH TH' LOCAL EDITOR BY SLIPPING HIM A CONTRACT FOR A YEAR'S ADVERTISIN'—'GIT TH' EDITOR AN' TH' BANKER WITH YOU, SAYS TH' BOSS, AND TH' REST IS EASY!"



render section sixteen effective."

The effect of this proposed amendment, if adopted, will be to compel all residents of the State of Michigan between the ages of five years and sixteen years to attend the public schools in their respective districts until they have graduated from the eighth grade, and to require the legislature to enact legislation rendering effective the provisions contained in section sixteen.

THE KHAKI UNIVERSITY

The peace time army has been growing steadily. Recruiting stations have been conducting their activities with unabated zeal. It is the plan of the United States Army staff to be prepared to the extent that a million men can be called to service without delay, should the emergency arise.

Preparedness is still a sane policy to pursue. It is as necessary as it ever was. Protests have been lodged by various elements who regard army recruiting at a time when the country needs labor on farms and in other industries as unwarranted. The men, they declare, could be employed in more useful occupations. The Army as it is now constituted with its varied activities, is a unique institution without parallel anywhere in the world. The time spent in the service is profitably employed. Besides the regular routine work, the drilling, the discipline and the training in military matters, thorough courses are given in 17 vocational subjects. There are, besides, two departments for general education. The Army has been turned into a school with a larger student body than any other. When the men leave they are able to go back to civilian life in a normal way, and fit into society as useful citizens, able to contribute to the wealth of the nation in a far greater extent than they could have done without such training. The selective draft revealed a great many defects in American youth. The peace time Army serves as a corrective.

GROESBECK COMING
 Republican Nominee for Governor To Be In Alma Wednesday.

Alex J. Groesbeck, attorney general of Michigan, and Republican nominee for governor at the November election, and Congressman Patrick Kelly will tour Gratiot county on Wednesday of next week.

Complete arrangements for the tour have not yet been made, but it is expected that Groesbeck will be in St. Louis Wednesday morning and in Alma during the afternoon.

The Republican nominee for governor is a brilliant speaker, and the people of Alma and vicinity should arrange to hear him speak.

Bills, to be printed as soon as the arrangements are completed, will give details and time of the Alma meeting.

RECITAL MONDAY

A recital will be given in the First Presbyterian church at Alma on Monday evening, October 11th at 8:15 o'clock, by Miss Grace Roberts and Professor Birger M. Beausang of Alma College.

Miss Roberts will furnish several pipe organ numbers and the occasion will furnish the first opportunity for the general public of Alma to hear the new professor of vocal music, Mr. Beausang.

The public is cordially invited. There will be no admission charge.

Perfume From Orange Buds.
 The fruit buds of the bitter orange also give an essential oil known as essence de petit grain, and from the white flowers is extracted a delightful perfume called essence de Néroli. That is prepared chiefly at Nice, Cannes and Grasse, in the south of France. All the flowers of a fine tree will yield only a single ounce of Néroli oil. The peel also yields an aromatic principle that the ancient Arab physicians esteemed highly as a tonic. It is still considered a useful stomachic.

Mother's Mistake.
 A little girl asked her mother: "Why did you go to the hospital to get me?" Her mother answered: "Because I wanted a nice little girl and you are a nice little girl, are you not?" The little girl, thinking of her baby brother Jack, answered: "Yes, I am a nice little girl, but you made an awful mistake when you went and picked me up."

CENTRAL STANDARD TIME
 By resolution of the city commission Tuesday evening, the city of Alma has adopted Central Standard Time, as the official time of the city. The change from Eastern time to Central Standard will be made at midnight, Saturday, October 16.

TIRE PRICES CUT

We have bought a special lot of Pennsylvania tires, which we can sell at the following remarkably low prices:

Read and Act

32x3½ Cord Tires \$30.10

32x4 Cord Tires \$38.15

33x4 Cord Tires \$39.20

34x4 Cord Tires \$40.10

Bar Circle Tires

30x3 Bar Circle \$10.25

30x3½ Bar Circle \$13.55

These are all high-grade tires. We were able to secure only a few at these prices. Leave your order now to assure service. Orders will be filled, as received as long as the goods last. Place your order before it is too late.

STEVENS & ROTH BROS.

Dodge Dealers

Alma, Mich.

AUCTION SALE

Having rented my farm 2 miles north of Elwell and one mile west, I will sell the following goods at auction on

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 13

Commencing at 12:30 o'clock.

HORSES

Black Horse 6 yrs. old wt. 1500
 Chestnut Horse 5 yrs. old wt. 1500
 Black Colt 3 yrs. old wt. 1100
 Black Mare 17 yrs. old wt. 1250

CATTLE

Red Cow 4 yrs. old due May 5
 Spotted Cow 4 yrs. old due March 19
 Red Heifer 3 yrs. old due January 24
 Holstein Cow 6 yrs. old due December 23
 Black Heifer 1 yr. old
 Holstein-Calf 5 months old

CHICKENS

2 brood sows 5 shoats

FEED AND IMPLEMENTS

Quantity of Rosen Rye Oats
 3 acres corn
 Quantity of Tamarack lumber
 1 large cooker with jacket
 1 Johnson Corn Binder
 1 McCormick Binder, 1 Mc. mowing machine
 Osborn horse rake 1 side delivery rake
 1 hay loader nearly new
 1 Iron Edge wheel cultivator

2 5-tooth cultivators 1 spike tooth cultivator
 1 wagon and combination stock rack
 1 pair sleighs 1 3-section drag
 1 Aspen Wall Potato planter 1 weeder
 1 spike tooth drag 1 roller
 1 Syracuse plow No. 31
 1 Farmers' Friend grain drill
 1 double buggy 1 single buggy
 2 buggy poles Cutter runners
 Log Bunks for sleighs
 Stone boat 2 cross cut saws
 2 hand planters 1 hand potato planter
 Hay fork rope and pulleys
 1 block and line 1 set horse clippers
 Corn Sheller 7 corn cutters 1 grindstone
 2 beet knives 1 brush hook
 1 mowing scythe 18 ft. 1¼ in. pipe
 Potato sprayer 1 heavy work harness
 1 single harness 1 double light harness
 4 horse collars Tools and planes
 Crates and baskets Scoop shovel
 1 fur overcoat Milk safe Flour chest
 Grass seeder 4 log chains Hog hook
 Grain sacks Heavy eveners with grab hook
 Churn Hanging lamps Table

TERMS OF SALE

All sums of \$5.00 and under cash. All sums over \$5.00, 12 months time on good bankable paper at 7 per cent interest. All goods must be settled for on day of sale.

WM. SHONG, Prop'r.

J. D. HELMAN, Auctioneer

FRANK FRENCH JR., Clerk

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Try The Record Liner Column for Your Wants

Always Reliable and Sure to Bring Returns